GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1727
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
NATIONAL COMMISSION OF LAND USE
SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a fresh National Commission on Land Use Policy;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal alongwith justification and financial implication and present status of implementation/follow up action;

(c) whether it is a fact that no action has been taken on Mohan Dharia Committee onLand Use Policy to tackle the real issue relating to food stocks and water management; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken to prepare a perspective plan to develop the 175 million hectare of degraded and waste land, State-wise for Maharashtra in particular?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES
(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to set up a National Commission onLand Use Policy to review and coordinate long term strategy at the National and State levels for the utilization of land resources in the country, development of agriculture keeping in view the agro-climatic conditions prevailing in different regions and preservation of forest resources. At present the National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council, set up in 1985 under the chairmanship ofthe Prime Minister coordinates all policy issues concerning the country's land resources. In addition, National Land Use and Conservation Board, chaired bythe Union Minister of Agriculture, National Wasteland Development Boardheaded by the Union Minister of Rural Development and National Forestry and Eco Development Board chaired by the Union Minister of Environment andforest, look after different elements of Land Use Policy pertaining to their respective areas.

(c)&(d) No Committee on Land Use Policy was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia. However, a high level Committee on Wasteland Developmentunder the chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia was constituted in November1994. The Committee submitted its Report in December 1995.The Committeehad recommended for preparation of perspective plans to develop 175 million hectares of degraded and wasteland in the country and to set up a Central Land Use Authority. The Report of the Committee was sent to all States including Maharashtra for implementation of its recommendations. The States were specifically requested to prepare 10-15 years perspective plan for proper water, land use and wastelands development. In addition to the above Committee, a Technical Committee under the chairmanship of Shri C.H. Hanumantha Rao, in1994, was constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development, whichrecommended a common set of operational guidelines, objectives, strategies and expenditure norms for implementation of Area Development Programmes viz Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme

(DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) beingimplemented by the Ministry of Rural Development on watershed basis. Common guidelines have also been adopted for other Area DevelopmentProgrammes such as National Watershed Development Project for RainfedAreas (NWDPRA), development of catchment area of River Valley Project andflood prone areas, being operated by the Ministry of Agriculture.